

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: A. STATE 139797 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 139796 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CANADIAN DCM HAS APPROACHED MISSION CONCERNING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON CANDIAN DEFENSE REVIEW DURING WEEK OF JUNE 23. WE WELCOME BRUSSELS BILATERALS, AND FEEL US SHOULD TAKE A GENERALLY "HARD LINE" CONCERNING ANY CANDIAN PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTIONS OF THEIR NATO FORCES. WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IF NECESSARY TO MATCH OTTAWA PARTICIPATNS OF SIMILAR RANK. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. CANADIAN CHARGE ROY CALLED ON CHARGE JUNE 16 TO DISCUSS CANADIAN-US CONSULTATIONS ON "CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF NATO EUROPE". ROY RECALLED BILATERAL TRUDEAU-SCHMIDT MEETING
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DURING NATO SUMMIT AND TRUDEAU'S SUBSEQUENT REMARKS TO PRESS THAT CONSULTATIONS WOULD OCCUR IN BRUSSELS ON FUTURE CANADIAN DEFENSE PLANS. HE STATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR CANA-
DIAN FRG CONSULTATIONS DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 23, TO BE CONDUCTED

TED AT THE PERMANENT REP LEVEL, AND ASKED IF THIS WEEK WOULD ALSO BE SUITABLE FOR SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND US. ROY WAS LESS PRECISE THAN CANADIAN MINISTER TURNER (REF A) HAD BEEN ON POSSIBLE DATES FOR US-CANADA CONSULTATIONS AND WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER CANADIAN TEAM WOULD INCLUDE OTTAWA OFFICIALS.

2. IN RESPONSE, CHARGE STATED THAT WEEK OF JUNE 23 WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FROM US POINT OF VIEW, AND QUESTIONED ROY AS TO FORMAT FOR DISCUSSIONS. ROY STATED THAT QUESTION OF FORMAT WAS STILL UNRESOLVED. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY WHETHER ROY COULD GIVE ANY IDEA OF SUBSTANCE OF CANADIAN PROPOSALS, ROY SAID HE COULD NOT, BUT REMARKED THAT THREE OPTIONS FOR STRUCTURE OF CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE (ALL AIR, ALL LAND, LAND/AIR MIX) HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. HE ADDED THAT CANADIAN NATO MISSION EXPECTS TO RECEIVE A PAPER LATER THIS WEEK DETAILING CANADIAN PROPOSALS, WHICH CANADIANS WILL FORWARD TO MISSION WHEN RECEIVED. ROY AND CANADIAN DEFENSE ADVISOR SHEFFIELD, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, SEEMED ANXIOUS TO CHARACTERIZE FORTHCOMING CANADIAN-US DISCUSSIONS AS AN "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS", RATHER THAN A CONSULTATION IN THE FORMAL SENSE. ROY COMMENTED THAT "NO REDUCTIONS" ARE ENVISAGED AS PART OF THE CANADIAN PROPOSALS, BUT THAT OBJECT IS TO MAKE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION MORE EFFECTIVE. ROY ALSO CONFIRMED THAT CANADIANS PLAN MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN NATO ON THEIR DEFENSE PROPOSALS. COMMENT: WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE TALKS. DEPENDING UPON WHETHER OTTAWA OFFICIALS TAKE PART, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF APPROPRIATE RANK TO BRUSSELS TO PARTICIPATE. WE RECOMMEND ALSO THAT US TAKE A "HARD LINE" WITH CANADIANS ON ANY PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN NATO-COMMITTED FORCES, BOTH IN EUROPE AND EARMARKED FOR EUROPEAN REINFORCEMENT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT APART FROM GENERAL INDICATIONS OF CONCERN IF PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTIONS ARE ADVANCED, WE SHOULD BE LARGELY NONCOMMITTAL DURING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS HERE, RESERVING OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION UNTIL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE CANADIAN PROPOSALS IN DETAIL. END COMMENT.

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3. IN REPLY PARA 3 REF B: CANADIANS HAVE NOT RESPONDED HERE TO ASD ELLSWORTH INVITATION FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN REFORGER. ON CASTCG EXTERNAL SEALIFT: DURING RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN MISSION OFFICER AND CANADIAN DEFAD SHEFFIELD, LATTER INDICATED THAT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CANADA AND NORWAY PROVIDES FOR SEALIFT OF CASTCG HEAVY EQUIPMENT USING NORWEGIAN MERCHANT SHIPS. THIS ARRANGEMENT PRESUPPOSES AVAILABILITY OF NORWEGIAN SHIPPING WHICH, ACCORDING TO SHEFFIELD, IS IN ABUNDANT SUPPLY IN AND NEAR CANADIAN PORTS IN PEACETIME. ALL CASTCG PERSONNEL WOULD TRAVEL BY AIR, WHICH CANADIAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND WOULD PROVIDE. STREATOR

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